## IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (D.O./E.O./US)

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| Applicants: | Denis PINSON ET AL. |
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| U.S. Filing Date: | March 19, 2002 |
| For: | LINK BETWEEN A CENTRAL SYSTEM AND A SATELLITE SYSTEM FOR EXECUTING OPERATIONS OF THE CENTRAL SYSTEM |

McLean, Virginia
March 19, 2002

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are submitted prior to examination of the above-identified application on the merits.

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Before the paragraph numbered **[0001]**, insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1.      Field of the Invention.--;

Before the paragraph numbered **[0003]**, insert the following heading:

--2.    Description of the Related Art.--;

Before the paragraph numbered **[0004]**, insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Before the paragraph numbered **[0005]**, insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

Before the paragraph numbered **[0006]**, insert the following heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

Page 17, after paragraph **[0093]**, insert the following new paragraph:

--[0094] While this invention has been described in conjunction with specific embodiments thereof, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be apparent to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the preferred embodiments of the invention as set forth herein, are intended to be illustrative, not limiting. Various changes may be made without departing from the true spirit and full scope of the invention as set forth herein and defined in the claims.--

Page 15, after the heading "CLAIMS" and before the first claim, insert the following:

--We claim:--

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice and substitute claims 8 – 21 as follows:

1    --8.    A linking structure located between a central system and a satellite system,

2    which executes operations of the central system by the satellite system, said linking

3    structure comprising:

4        a link between the central system and the satellite system;

5        a control card, in the central system, that places said operations in one or

6    more data blocks; and

7        a coupler, in the satellite system, that sends to the control card at least one

8    read command through the link, said control card being responsive to said one read

9    command to send said one or more data blocks through the link to the coupler.

1    9.    A method for exchanging information between a central system and a

2    satellite system, which executes at least one operation of the central system, said method

3    comprising:

4        a first step which includes sending a read command identified by a first

5    logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system;

6        a second step which includes sending from said central system a first data

7    block containing said operation in response to said read command; and

8        a third step which includes receiving said first data block in the satellite

9    system in order to process said operation, said second step and said third step being

10    performed concomitantly.

1    10.    The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

2 a fourth step which includes sending a write command from the satellite

3 system to the central system identified by a second logical unit number and a second data

4 block resulting from said operation.

1 11. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

2 a fifth step which includes sending a read command identified by a third

3 logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system;

4 a sixth step which includes sending from the central system, in response to

5 said read command, a third data block containing said operation; and

6 a seventh step which includes receiving, in the satellite system, said third

7 data block in order to process the operation in said third data block, said seventh step and

8 said second step being performed concomitantly.

1 12. The method according to claim 9, further comprising:

2 a fifth step which includes sending a read command identified by a third

3 logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system;

4 a sixth step which includes sending from the central system, in response to

5 said read command, a third data block containing said operation; and

6 a seventh step which includes receiving, in the satellite system, said third

7 data block in order to process the operation in said third data block, said seventh step and

8 said second step being performed concomitantly.

1 13. The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

2        an eighth step which includes sending a write command identified by a

3  fourth logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system and a fourth data

4  block resulting from said operation.

1      14.    The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

2        an eighth step which includes sending a write command identified by a

3  fourth logical unit number from the satellite system to the central system and a fourth data

4  block resulting from said operation.

1      15.    The method according to claim 9, wherein said first data block includes:

2        a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3        a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4  corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

1      16.    The method according to claim 10, wherein said first data block includes:

2        a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3        a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4  corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

1      17.    The method according to claim 11, wherein said first data block includes:

2        a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3        a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4  corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.

1      18.    The method according to claim 12, wherein said first data block includes:

2          a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3          a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4   corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.


1     19.    The method according to claim 13, wherein said first data block includes:

2          a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3          a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4   corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.


1     20.    The method according to claim 14, wherein said first data block includes:

2          a first field containing commands or data of said operation; and

3          a header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel

4   corresponding to said operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field.


1     21.    A satellite system for processing an operation of a central system,

2   comprising:

3          a first coupler for sending a read command to the central system and

4   receiving a response from the central system, said response including at least one first

5   data block constituted by a first field containing commands or data of said operation and a

6   header containing a second field for identifying a logical channel corresponding to said

7   operation and a third field for indicating a length of the first field;

8          a processor for processing contents of the first field as a function of the

9   header of the block; and

10          a second coupler for sending a write command to the central system

11   accompanied by at least one second data block, wherein the first field contains a result of

12    said operation and wherein the header identifies the logical channel corresponding to said

13    operation.--

## IN THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract as originally filed with the following new abstract:

## --ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In order to have operations of a central system executed by a satellite system, a linking structure is located between the central system and the satellite system. The linking structure includes: a communications link between the central system and satellite system; a control card, in the central system, that places said operations in one or more data blocks; and a coupler, in the satellite system, that sends through the link to the control card at least one read command to which the control card responds by sending said data block or blocks through the link to the coupler--

## REMARKS

Claims 8 - 21 are pending. Claims 1- 7 have been rewritten as claims 8 – 21 for clarification purposes due to translation and to avoid improper multiple dependencies. Also, the specification has been amended to include section headers, and a new abstract has been provided.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that further amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, or if the Examiner believes that a personal interview would be advantageous in order to more expeditiously resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with this application, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (Attorney Docket No. T2147-907751) and credit any excess fees to the same Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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